Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. as the Central Transmission Utility has identified the Transmission system for evacuation of power from Tala Hydro-electric Project in Bhutan (1020 MW) for execution through Joint Venture arrangements and for this purpose POWERGRID is setting up a Joint Venture Company. POWERGRID has also identified projects to be taken up with 100% equity participation from the private investors as Independent Power Transmission Company (IPTC). The IPTC will be selected on the basis of tariff based bidding.

The decision in respect of privatisation of distribution systems has to be taken by the appropriate agencies in_ the States. Government of Orissa have recently privatised distribution sector in the State.

**Power Situation**

1968. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at the cross-country power distribution accounts for only one per cent of the total power generation;

(b) if so, what are the implications, considering the regional concentration of Thermal and Hydel thermal resources;

(c) whether any proposal exists to improve the situation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (d) Out of 4,89,911 MU of the power generated in the country in 1999-2000, 1,81,033 MU were generated by the central generating stations, which accounts for 37.71% of the total generation. The bulk of this generation is transmitted across the boundaries of the States within the region where the generating stations are located. The Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (POWERGRID) implements the evacuation of power from central generating stations to all beneficiary States across the country.

However, it is a fact that the total inter-regional transfer capacity is inadequate at present and is only 4350 MW in a total system of nearly 97,837 MW installed capacity. The reason for this low level of regional inter-connection is the process of evolution of electricity grids in the country from State to regional grid, and now on to the making of a national grid, with inter-regional inter-connections for exchange of operational surpluses at a few appropriate points taking into account the topology of the regional networks.

In addition to evacuation of power within the region from specific projects, inter-regional inter connectors have also been developed and- more such inter-connections are being executed/ planned. A 500 MW HVDC back to back link at Sasaram to interconnect Eastern and Northern Regions is. under implementation and is expected to be commissioned by, 2002. The following interregional links are planned for implementation over a period of 4 to 5 years:

i. Talcher-Kolar HVDC bipole link connecting Eastern and Southern region.

ii. Hirma-Jaipur HVDC bipole link connecting Eastern and Southern Region.

iii. Rourkela (Eastern Region)-Raipur (Western Region) 400 KV DC. line connecting Eastern and Western Grids.

iv. Hirma-Raipur 400 KV D/C link connecting Eastern and Western Region.

v. Pumea-Muzzafarpur-Gorakhpur-Lucknpw 400 KV D/C line connecting Eastern and northern Region.

The Government is according high priority to optimum utilisation of power across the country.